

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated September 15, 2006. The Examiner's acknowledgement of Applicants' amendments, and the withdrawal of certain objections is certainly appreciated.

The Examiner continues to reject the claims under 35 USC § 112, either first or second paragraph. The Examiner further objects to the specification. With the amendments made herein, it is respectfully submitted that none of these rejections can stand.

The Examiner seemed to object to the language previously introduced in the amendment of September 6, 2006, wherein the Applicants used the language "a closed perimeter enclosing an opening *therebetween*." Now, it is asserted that each of the spokes has "a closed perimeter enclosing an opening *therewithin*." It is clear that "therewithin" means "within the perimeter." "Therewithin" is perhaps a slightly more precise word, and it clearly modifies "the perimeter" (and no other aspect of the claim,) and the opening which the perimeter describes is certainly is well disclosed throughout the specification. Accordingly, none of the rejections or objections based on improper disclosure, new matter, or lack of support in the specification should remain. Moreover, none of the rejections of the claims based on 35 USC § 112, second paragraph should remain. It is earnestly solicited that the Examiner remove these rejections.

In addition, the objection to claim 4 has been avoided in that claim 4 is now canceled.

With the amendment made herein, it is earnestly asserted that any of the art rejections should be traversed. *None* of the art cited by either the Applicant or the Examiner discloses a stent wherein there are spokes at the proximal end, where the spokes have a closed perimeter describing an opening therewithin. Thus, since none of the art is disclosed, *none* of the § 102 rejections is appropriate. In addition, since this aspect of the claim is nowhere suggested in any of the art, *none* of the art cited renders any of the claims obvious.

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Prompt allowance of the remaining claims 1-3 and 5-17 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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